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RAMSEY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH.

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITION of the DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1939.



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TO THE RAMSEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

Considerable time was spent during the year in connection with additional duties which arose as a direct result of the Civil Defence programme; these efforts were intensified on the outbreak of hostilities and consequently some curtailment of normal routine work resulted.

The outstanding feature of the year, however, was the mass-movement by the Ministry under the Government Evacuation Scheme of expectant mothers, women with young children, and unaccompanied school children from the dangerous industrial areas into the safer areas of the Country. These evacuees brought with them problems of many sorts with which the small staffs of the Reception Areas had to contend and solve; these problems, however, will no doubt be discussed at a more appropriate time.

STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D. S. BUCHANAN, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR (PART TIME)

V. J. BATEMAN, A.R.San.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|
| Area | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15,980 acres |
| | | | | | | 13,720 are Fen Land |
| Estimated Population (mid 1939) | ... | | | | | 5,382 |
| | (mid 1938) | ... | | | | 5,219 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses, end | | | | | | 1,523 |
| of 1939 | | | | | | |
| Rateable Value | ... | ... | ... | | | £17,156 |
| Value of Penny Rate | ... | ... | ... | | | £71 : 9 : 8. |

During the course of 1939 no radical change took place in the industry of the district, which is chiefly connected with agricultural activities.

VITAL STATISTICS

| Live Births. | | Total | Males | Females |
|--|-----|-------|-------|---------|
| Legitimate | ... | 110 | 52 | 58 |
| Illegitimate | ... | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 21.9. | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Still Births. | | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 17.09 | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|----|----|----|
| Deaths. | | 71 | 36 | 35 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 13.1. Death Rate adjusted 12.4. | | | | |

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

| | Deaths | Rate per 1000 total (live & still) births |
|----------------------------------|--------|--|
| No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis | — | — |
| No. 30 Other puerperal causes | — | — |
| Total : | nil | nil |

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

| | |
|--|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 51.7 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 45.0 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births | 200 |
| Deaths from Cancer (All ages) | 14 |
| Deaths from Measles (All ages) | nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages) .. | 1 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | nil |

RATES.

| | Per 1000 Population. | | | Per 1000 live births |
|---|----------------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| | Live Births | Still Births | Death Rate | Infantile Mortality |
| Ramsey | 21.9 | 0.38 | 12.4 | 51.7 |
| England & Wales ... | 15.0 | 0.59 | 12.1 | 50 |
| London (Adm. County) | 12.3 | 0.44 | 11.9 | 48 |
| 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London. | 14.8 | 0.59 | 12.0 | 53 |
| 148 Small Towns ... | 15.6 | 0.57 | 11.2 | 40 |

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes, Registrar General's figures.

| CAUSES OF DEATH | | | | | Males | Females | Totals |
|-----------------|---|--|--|--|-------|---------|--------|
| ALL CAUSES | | | | | 36 | 35 | 71 |
| 1 | Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers | | | | — | — | — |
| 2 | Measles | | | | — | — | — |
| 3 | Scarlet Fever | | | | — | — | — |
| 4 | Whooping Cough | | | | — | 1 | 1 |
| 5 | Diphtheria | | | | — | — | — |
| 6 | Influenza | | | | — | 1 | 1 |
| 7 | Encephalitis Lethargica .. | | | | — | — | — |
| 8 | Cerebro-spinal fever | | | | — | — | — |
| 9 | Tuberculosis of respiratory... system | | | | — | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | Other Tuberculous diseases... | | | | — | — | — |
| 11 | Syphilis... .. | | | | — | — | — |
| 12 | General Paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis ... | | | | — | — | — |
| 13 | Cancer, Malignant disease ... | | | | 4 | 11 | 15 |
| 14 | Diabetes | | | | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 15 | Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ... | | | | — | 1 | 1 |
| 16 | Heart Disease | | | | 11 | 7 | 18 |
| 17 | Aneurysm | | | | — | — | — |
| 18 | Other Circulatory Diseases ... | | | | 2 | — | 2 |
| 19 | Bronchitis | | | | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 20 | Pneumonia (all forms) ... | | | | 4 | — | 4 |
| 21 | Other Respiratory Diseases... | | | | — | 1 | 1 |
| 22 | Peptic Ulcer | | | | — | — | — |
| 23 | Diarrhœa, etc. under (2 years) | | | | — | — | — |
| 24 | Appendicitis | | | | — | — | — |
| 25 | Cirrhosis of Liver | | | | — | — | — |
| 26 | Other Diseases of Liver, etc. | | | | — | — | — |
| 27 | Other Digestive Diseases ... | | | | — | 1 | 1 |
| 28 | Acute and Chronic Nephritis | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 29 | Puerperal Sepsis | | | | — | — | — |
| 30 | Other Puerperal Causes ... | | | | — | — | — |
| 31 | Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.... | | | | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 32 | Senility | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 33 | Suicide | | | | — | — | — |
| 34 | Other violence | | | | 3 | — | 3 |
| 35 | Other defined diseases ... | | | | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 36 | Causes ill-defined or unknown | | | | — | — | — |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities :

Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined and reported upon at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Under the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Scheme specimens may be sent for Bacteriological examination to the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) Ambulance Facilities :

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases ambulances are available at Peterborough, Huntingdon and Whittlesey. A further ambulance is now available to meet the requirements of the district by the provision of an ambulance, by the Hunts County Council. This ambulance is stationed at Stilton.

(c) Nursing In The Home :

Nursing in the district is carried on by the Ramsey Nursing Association under the supervision of the County Council. Three nurses, who are qualified midwives, are employed; they carry out the general nursing in the district, and attend the majority of maternity cases and act as Health Visitors.

No provision is made for the home visiting of Measels. Whooping Cough and Infantile Diarrhoea.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) Clinics And Treatment Centres :

The Hunts County Council provide the following health services :-

School Clinic (Minor Ailments) - Town School Ramsey
4th Thursday in each month at 10 a.m.

Eyes—Consultants Rooms. By Appointment.

Tuberculosis—T.M.O. By Appointment.

Orthopædic—Huntingdon Clinic by Appointment. 1st & 3rd Tuesday in each month at 11.30 a.m.

Infant Welfare—Wesleyan Schoolroom 4th Tuesday in each month at 2.30 p.m.

Nose, Throat and Ear Clinic—Memorial Hospital every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appointment.

Venereal Diseases—28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough
Men—Tuesday and Friday 6 - 8 p.m.

Women—Tuesday & Friday 3-30 - 6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary :—

(1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon, which is provided by the Joint Hospital Board.

(2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital, the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, continue to carry out the general hospital service in the district.

(3) Provision is made for the reception of Maternity Cases in either, the hospital at the Huntingdon Institution when home conditions are not suitable for the management, or, the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, when complications make it desirable or necessitous.

Subsequent to the arrival of expectant mothers under the Government Evacuation Scheme further accommodation for Maternity Cases was required and, as a result, an Emergency Maternity Hospital was opened by the Hunts. County Council at Paxton Park.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER.

Since the last Official Report was issued a Public Water Supply has been inaugurated in the town and district, the suppliers being the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board. The water is obtained from River Valley gravels at Earith, a distance of about 12 miles from Ramsey. It is pumped into a Service Reservoir of a capacity of 120,000 gallons at Wistow from which it gravitates into Ramsey and district.

The water supplied is of a high standard of purity with a good pressure, but of a rather hard nature. Although the Urban District of Ramsey is wide spread the water supply is available to practically the whole of the district and is much appreciated by all users.

Since the Emergency Public Health Laboratory has been established at Cambridge, weekly bacteriological examinations have been carried out.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Septic tanks deal with all sewage before it enters the river.

Following the installation of the water supply a Sewerage Scheme came under consideration and approximate cost obtained, but owing to the cost being high and the unsettled conditions generally, it was deferred to a more appropriate time

Public Cleansing.—Dry house refuse is collected in covered carts and disposed of by Controlled Tipping. Refuse from Earth Closets and Privies is collected at night by carts and is eventually used as manure.

Cesspools are emptied in the same way and the refuse spread on the land.

HOUSING.

A Survey of the housing throughout the district was made and a programme drawn up, but this along with other matters has had to be placed in abeyance as a result of the suspension of parts of the Housing Acts.

During the course of the year 15 plans for houses were submitted for the approval of the Council and throughout that period 29 new houses were erected (including 16 completed by Local Authority).

The new Building Byelaws were confirmed by the Ministry of Health on the 15th day of December, 1939.

Formal notices served in the preceeding year under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 in connection with 6 houses were complied with during the year.

Legal proceedings were instituted under the Public Health Act, 1936 in connection with two offences and in respect of which the court made orders to abate the nuisances. The Orders of the Court were complied with.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY.--There are 8 registered cowkeepers in the area and 25 inspections were made. Conditions are satisfactory and the quality of the milk is good.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—There are 6 licensed Slaughter houses in the area. 50 inspections of these premises were made and on each occasion were found to be conducted satisfactorily. Of the 260 carcasses examined:—2 pigs carcasses were condemned, 1 pigs kidney was condemned. All other carcasses were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st. December, 1939.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Number of Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | 360 |
| Total Number of Notices served | Informal | 2 | } | | |
| | Statutory | 2 | | | 4 |
| Complaints received | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| | | No. inspected | | Nuisances abated | |
| Premises, Houses etc.... | ... | 170 | | | 6 |
| Animals improperly kept | ... | 2 | | | 2 |
| Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit | ... | 16 | | | 16 |
| Drain, drain traps etc. | ... | 7 | | | 7 |
| Offensive Accumulations | ... | 1 | | | 1 |
| Other Sanitary Conditions | ... | 70 | | | 16 |
| <hr/> | | | | | |
| Food surrendered to as unwholesome | ... | ... | ... | | 4 |
| Pail or earth Closets (new provided) | ... | ... | ... | | 16 |
| | (No. converted to W.C's.) | ... | ... | | 10 |
| Water Closets. New provided (including new houses) | | | | | 29 |
| Ashpits. No. converted to ashbins | ... | ... | ... | | 1 |
| Water Supply | { Samples for Analysis .. | | ... | ... | 12 |
| | { Well closed | | ... | ... | 6 |
| | { Public Supply substituted | | ... | ... | 6 |
| Total Legal Proceedings. Summonses etc. | ... | ... | ... | | 2 |
| | Convictions | ... | ... | | 2 |

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

Inspections have been made during the year with reference to Sanitary Conveniences, Ventilation, Temperature, and means of escape in case of Fire. Conditions were found to be satisfactory. No complaints were received from the Inspector of Factories during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Certain Sections of this Act, which came into operation on 1st October, apply to this Local Authority ; these included the registration of dealers and manufacturers in Ice Cream etc.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

V. J. BATEMAN.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Additions to the list of notifiable infectious diseases occurred as a result of the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations made by the Minister of Health which came into force on 1st November, 1939.

During the past year there were only sporadic cases of infectious disease.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1939.

| DISEASE. | Total | Under 1 Year | | | | | | | | | | | Cases Admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------------------|--------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65 | | |
| Smallpox | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever... | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| Diphtheria | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Enteric Fever(including Paratyphoid) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| Pneumonia | 2 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Measels | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whooping Cough | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Recognising the possibility of outbreaks of infectious disease resulting from mass immigration into the district, all arrangements were made to commence an intensive drive for the immunisation of children against diphtheria.

The scheme was complete by the end of the year and ready for the initial drive to take place in the new year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

| Age Periods | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
| | Respiratory | | Non Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 45 | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | | |
| 65 and upwards | | | | | | | | |
| Total | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the Compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

Medical Officer of Health

